trade marks and for purchase of equipments; etc. from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha, to the extent available.

Audit of books of accounts in banks

2267. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India appoints statutory auditors to audit the books of accounts of commercial banks every year; and

(b) if so, whether these auditors audit the total account of a bank including the 'books of accounts of all the branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) In terms of tJie Statutes Governing them, Central Auditors for Nationalised Banks are appointed by the banks themselves after obtaining prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India. In the case of State Bank of India however the Statutory Central Auditors are appointed by Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Central Government. The accounts of seven subsidiaries of State Bank of India are audited by Statutory Central Auditors appointed by State Bank of India with the prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. Auditors in respect of private sector banks including foreign banks operating in India arc appointed by the banks themselves with the prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. These auditors are appointed on year to year basis.

(b) In So far as branch audit is concerned, Naticmalised Banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India that in addition to auditing of the main 'branch/Head Office, all branches having outstanding advances of Rs. 50 lakhs and above should be audited compulsorily each year and in addition one third of the remaining branches should also be audited by rotation. State Bank of India and its siAb-sidiaries have also been advised by Reserve Bank of India to introduce audit of branches on the same pattern as Nationalised Banks in a phased manner. In the case of private sector banks, auditing of their branches is conducted under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and the rules framed thereunder.

Estate duty cases

2268. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a iact that a num ber of Estate-Duty cases of the people in the Capital are pending settlement;

(b) whether Government have re ceived any representation with regard to the early settlement of these cases; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) Yes it is a fact that a number of Estate-Duty cases of the people of the Capital are pending.

(b) and (c) Representations were received from certain organisations regarding early disposal of Estate-Duty cases etc. After consideration of these suggestions, the Government have issued instructions to dispose of Estate-Duty cases where the returned principal value did not exceed Rs. 3 lakhs in a summary manner. The Gfovernment has also issued instructions that no penalty proceedings be initiated in the cases covered under the summary assessment scheme.

Seizure of gold and anaceonnted money

2269. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the total